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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7001

BILL NUMBER: HB 1163

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 15, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Wild animal permits.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Kersey

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Bray

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill adds and removes certain persons from the application of the wild animal permit laws. The bill makes changes to the definition of "zoological park". It adds a definition of "circus" for purposes of wild animal permits. The bill removes the requirement that a permit is necessary if the wild animal is harmful to plants. It removes the requirement that a separate permit is necessary for each wild animal. The bill allows the Natural Resources Commission to raise the wild animal permit fee. The bill allows an animal to be seized if it poses a risk to public health or safety.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would result in no significant additional expenses to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR Director may adopt rules to reflect the changes outlined in the bill. The director may seize and hold an animal for which a permit is required if the animal poses a risk to public health or safety. The DNR will be able to complete these responsibilities given its existing level of resources.

Background. Currently, one federal inspector is assigned to Indiana and two other states to oversee the inclosure and care of Class III animals, which include large animals, such as bears and large cats. The bill would provide that persons who enclose and maintain these animals must have a state permit. The state permit would allow oversight by over 200 DNR conservation officers assigned specific regions of the state who could provide more immediate response to public health and safety issues related to the care and housing of Class III wild animals.

Explanation of State Revenues: There are currently 34 individuals who would be required to obtain a state permit. The application fee for the permit is \$10. Given this fee, the total amount of revenue that would be generated would equal \$340. Revenue generated would be deposited in the Fish & Wildlife Fund. The bill allows the Natural Resources Commission to set the permit fee above the minimum \$10 amount. However, the amount may not be more than is reasonably necessary to generate revenue sufficient to offset costs incurred by the DNR.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR.

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